

Serial No. 10/580,802
Attorney Docket No. 102613-112

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$, comprising;

- i) 2 to 20 wt% of at least a self-crosslinkable resin;
- ii) 0.25 to 20 wt% of at least a catalyst selected from the group consisting of MgCl_2 , ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate, ~~ammonium salt of formic acid~~, ammonium salt of boric acid, ~~ammonium salt of phosphoric acid~~, ~~ammonium salt of oxalic acid~~, and combinations thereof;
- iii) 0.1 to 4 wt% of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reactive with the resin, said antimicrobial active agent being selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and combinations thereof;
- iv) 75 to 97 wt% of water;

wherein i) + ii) + iii) + iv) = 100%.

2. (Original) A composition according to claim 1 where the non-cellulosic fibres have an acid value ≤ 5 mmol/kg.

3. (Currently Amended) A composition for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg, comprising;

- i) 2 to 20 wt% of at least a self-crosslinkable resin;
- ii) 0.25 to 20 wt% of at least a catalyst selected from the group consisting of MgCl_2 , ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate, ~~ammonium salt of formic acid~~, ammonium

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salt of boric acid, ~~ammonium salt of phosphoric acid, ammonium salt of oxalic acid,~~ and combinations thereof;

iii) 0.1 to 4 wt% of at least an antimicrobial active agent, reactive with the resin, said antimicrobial active agent being selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium salts, biguanides, monoguanides, and combinations thereof;

iv) 75 to 97 wt% of water;

wherein i) + ii) + iii) + iv) = 100%.

4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3 where the non-cellulosic fibres have a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$.

5. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 where the non-cellulosic fibres are selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyamide, polypropylene, polyurethane and cellulose acetate.

6. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 1 where the self-crosslinkable resin is an amino resin.

7. (Original) A composition according to claim 6 where the self-crosslinkable resin is a formaldehyde condensate with urea or melamine.

8. (Original) A composition according to claim 7 where the self-crosslinkable resin is selected from dimethyldihydroxyethylene urea and dihydroxydimethylene urea.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$, comprising stages:

A) contacting the fibres with a composition according to claim 1;

B) optionally drying the fibres contacted with the composition; and

C) curing the fibres contacted with the composition to effect crosslinking of the resin.

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14. (Original) A method according to claim 13 where the non-cellulosic fibres have an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of ≤ 5 mmol/kg, comprising stages:

A) contacting the fibres with a composition according to claim 1;

B) optionally drying the fibres contacted with the composition; and

C) curing the fibres contacted with the composition to effect crosslinking of the resin.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 where the non-cellulosic fibres have a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 where stage C) is carried out at temperatures in the range of from 100 to 180°C.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 where stage C) is carried out for a time in the range of from 30 seconds to 5 minutes.

19-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) Non-cellulosic fibres having a moisture regain of $\leq 5\%$ treated with a composition according to claim 1.

24. (Previously Presented) Non-cellulosic fibres having an acid value of $\leq 5\%$ mmol/kg treated with a composition according to claim 3.

25-27. (Cancelled)